

Abstract

Useful hinged, structural members and profiles are disclosed comprising
5 thermoplastic-reinforcing fabric composite materials. The hinged members and
profiles have at least two rigid areas of thermoplastic-fabric composite joined on a
common fabric through flexible, hinged regions. The hinged regions can comprise
fabric free of any thermoplastic composite forming material or alternatively can be
coated with flexible materials on one or both sides of the fabric. The invention extends
10 to co-extrusion methods wherein thermoplastic materials are applied to pre-determined
portions of the fabric under pressure so that the thermoplastic coats, and preferably
wets, fibers of the reinforcing fabric. The structural members thus extruded are formed
into useful lengths and readily converted into complex profiles by simple bending at the
hinged regions. In this way, complex profiles that would be difficult to produce by
15 conventional extrusion processes and bulky to ship can be easily made at the job site.

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